

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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SUBJECT: BITSIOS PRESS STATEMENT

REF: USNATO 1890 (NOTAL)

1. ON MARCH 31 ALL THREE ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH BITSIOS CONDUCTED BY THE PAPERS' CORRESPONDENTS IN ATHENS PRIOR BITSIOS' DEPARTURE. RELEVANT EXTRACTS OF QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOW, TAKEN FROM AKHBAR NEWSPAPER, WHICH HAD MOST DETAILED ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW.

Q. AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE PREVIOUS MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE WITH UNITED STATES CONCERNING FACILITIES FOR SIXTH FLEET IN SOME GREEK MEDITERRANEAN PORTS GAVE RISE TO DEEP CONCERN IN THE ARAB/ME COUNTRIES ON ACCOUNT GREECE'S CLOSE POSITION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE BASE OF THE AMERICAN FLEET AGAINST THEM IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES. WHAT ARE DIMENSIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND WOULD PRESENT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN GREECE APPROVE OF THIS AGREEMENT AND WHAT ARE THE GUARANTEES TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE FACILITIES WILL NOT BE USED ONE DAY AGAINST THE ARABS.

A. WITH REGARD TO THE MILITARY FACILITY GIVEN BY GREECE TO THE
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UNITED STATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO, I AM TELLING YOU
THAT GREECE IS REVISING THIS ISSUE AFTER DECLARATION OF HER

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PACT'S MILITARY WING. FIRST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS OVER AND SECOND ROUND WILL TAKE PLACE DURING FIRST TEN DAYS OF APRIL; ON ACCOUNT OF THESE EXTREMELY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY MORE STATEMENTS FOR TIME BEING.

Q. GREECE HAS SUSPENDED ITS RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION OF NATO AFTER SHE DISCOVERED ITS INABILITY TO SETTLE DISPUTE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE. THERE WERE ALSO STATEMENTS ABOUT AMENDMENT OF MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH ANKARA. WHAT IS THE TRUE STAND OF GREECE TOWARD THESE QUESTIONS.

A. WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE FROM THE MILITARY WING OF NATO NEEDS APPROPRIATE RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND PACT'S UNIFIED COMMAND. TO REALIZE THIS WE SHALL NEED EXTREMELY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS AND ON ACCOUNT OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS. CONTACTS HAVE ALREADY STARTED AND THEY ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR A LONG PERIOD BECAUSE OF THE REASONS I GAVE, AND ON THIS OCCASION I REMIND YOU THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH FRANCE CONDUCTED IN THIS CONNECTION CONTINUED FOR TWO YEARS.

2. AKHBAR APRIL 4, REPORTING ON BITSIOS' CAIRO PRESS CONFERENCE, QUOTED HIM AS SAYING: "ALL MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICA AND NATO ARE NOW BEING REVISED."
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